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# NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

35690 7590 11/12/2009

MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.
P.O. BOX 398
AUSTIN, TX 78767-0398

| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| TRUONG, LAN DAI T | |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| 2452 | |

DATE MAILED: 11/12/2009

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 09/829,937 | 04/11/2001 | David A. Bolnick | 5957-71800 | 7702 |

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR GATHERING AND DELIVERING PERSONALIZED USER INFORMATION

| APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE DUE | PUBLICATION FEE DUE | PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| nonprovisional | YES | $755 | $300 | $0 | $1055 | 02/12/2010 |

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.**

**THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.**

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

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If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**



PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.

# PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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**or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

35690 7590 11/12/2009

MEYERTONS, HOOD, KIVLIN, KOWERT & GOETZEL, P.C.
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**Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/829,937 | 04/11/2001 | David A. Bolnick | 5957-71800 | 7702 |

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| nonprovisional | YES | $755 | $300 | $0 | $1055 | 02/12/2010 |

| EXAMINER | ART UNIT | CLASS-SUBCLASS |
|---|---|---|
| TRUONG, LAN DAI T | 2452 | 713-202000 |

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
   - ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
   - ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
   (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
   (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

   1 ______________________
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3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

   PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

   (A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

   (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:
- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies ______________

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- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number ________ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. **Change in Entity Status** (from status indicated above)
   - ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.
   - ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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|---|---|
| TRUONG, LAN DAI T | |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| 2452 | |

DATE MAILED: 11/12/2009

**Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)**
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 719 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 719 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.



PTOL-85 (Rev. 08/07) Approved for use through 08/31/2010.

| *Notice of Allowability* | **Application No.** 09/829,937 | **Applicant(s)** BOLNICK ET AL. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Examiner** LAN-DAI Thi TRUONG | **Art Unit** 2452 | |

***-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--***

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *10/26/2009*.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *56-103,118-129 and 134-137*.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
   1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
   2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
   3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE**.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
   1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   **Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Kenny S Lin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452

## DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is response to communications: application, filed on 04/11/2001; amendments filed on 10/26/2009. Claims 56-103, 118-129 and 134-137 are pending; claims 54-55, 104-117, 130-133 and 138-143 are canceled; claims 56, 73 and 84-85 are amended.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendments to claims 56, 73 and 84-85 was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Eric B. Min, Reg. No. 54,761 on November 02, 2009.

The claims has been amended as follows:

56. (Currently Amended) A system configured to provide an information distribution service, said system comprising:

a memory subsystem;

one or more application servers configured to receive, via secure links to said information distribution service, messages including personal information relating to users of said information distribution service, wherein said users include a first user, wherein at least some of said messages are received from a plurality of business entities;

wherein the received messages include first and second messages, wherein the first and second messages each include personal, non-public information relating to said first user and each include an indication of a time-based priority of the message, wherein the first message is received from a first business entity, wherein the second message is received from a second business entity;

wherein said first and second business entities have been associated with a first account of said information distribution service, permitting said first and second business entities to provide, via said information distribution service, messages to said first account that include

personal information relating to said first user, wherein the first account is associated with the first user;

wherein the received messages further include a third message, wherein said third message includes information corresponding to a second account of said information distribution service, and wherein the second account corresponds to a second user of said information distribution service, wherein the second account and the first account are members of a first group, where in the information distribution service allows a member of the first group to send information to one or more other members of the first group, ~~stores information indicating that the second account is permitted to share information with the first account~~, and wherein said first account is independent from said second account;

wherein said one or more application servers are configured to store the received messages in said memory subsystem, including the first, second, and third messages;

wherein the one or more application servers are configured to generate a report for the first account by selecting the stored messages that are directed to the first account and whose time-based priorities satisfy one or more time-based criteria, wherein the report for the first account includes at least an indication of the first, second, and third messages;

wherein the one or more application servers are configured to store the report for the first account.

73. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for providing an information distribution service, said method comprising:

receiving, via secure links to said information distribution service, messages including personal information relating to users of said information distribution service, wherein said users

include a first user, wherein at least some of said messages are received from a plurality of business entities, wherein the received messages include first, second, and third messages, wherein the first and second messages each include personal, non-public information relating to said first user and an indication of a time-based priority of the message, wherein the first message is received from a first business entity, wherein the second message is received from a second business entity, wherein said first and second business entities have been associated with a first account of the information distribution service via said information distribution service, permitting said first and second business entities to provide, via said information distribution service, messages to said first account that include personal information relating to said first user, wherein the first account is associated with the first user;

wherein the received messages further include a third message, wherein the third message includes information corresponding to a second account of the information distribution service, wherein the second account corresponds to a second user of the information distribution service, wherein the second account and the first account are members of a first group, wherein the information distribution service allows a member of the first group to send information to one or more other members of the first group, ~~stores information indicating that the second account is permitted to share information with the first account~~, and wherein said first account is independent from said second user account;

storing said received messages;

generating a report for the first account, wherein said generating includes selecting at least the first, second, and third messages for inclusion in the report based on the time-based

priority of those messages satisfying one or more time-based criteria specified by the information distribution service;

storing the report for the first account;

making the report available to a client computer system that has accessed the first account via said information distribution service, wherein the report is displayable on the client computer system using a first interface.

84. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory medium comprising program instructions executable by a computer to:

receive, via secure links to an information distribution service, messages including personal information relating to users of said information distribution service, wherein said users include a first user, wherein at least some of said messages are received from a plurality of business entities, wherein the received messages include first, second, and third messages, wherein the first and second messages each include personal, private information relating to said first user and each include an indication of a time- based priority of the message, wherein the first message is received from a first business entity, wherein the second message is received from a second business entity, wherein said first and second business entities have been associated with a first account of said information distribution service via said information distribution service, permitting said first and second business entities to provide, via said information distribution service, messages to said first account that include personal information relating to said first user, wherein the first account is associated with the first user;

wherein the received messages further include a third message, wherein the third message includes information corresponding to a second account of said information distribution service,

wherein the second account and the first account are members of a first group, wherein the information distribution service allows a member of the first group to send information to one or more other members of the first group, ~~stores information indicating that the second account is permitted to share information with the first account,~~ and wherein said first account is independent from said second account;

store said received messages;

generate a report for the first account, wherein generating the report includes selecting at least the first, second, and third messages for inclusion in the report based on the time-based priorities of those messages satisfying one or more time-based criteria specified by the information distribution service; and make the report available to a client computer system that has accessed the first account via said information distribution service, wherein the report is displayable on the client computer system using a first interface.

85. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

a first computer system receiving, from an information distribution service over a data channel that includes the Internet, a first plurality of messages;

responsive to said receiving, said first computer system providing at least an indication of each of the first plurality of messages for display to a first user using a first interface based on a time-based priority of the message;

wherein at least some of the first plurality of messages were sent to the information distribution service over a respective data channel that includes the Internet by a plurality of business entities;

wherein each of the plurality of business entities is associated with a first account of the information distribution service and is permitted by the information distribution service to provide messages to the first account, wherein the first account is associated with the first user;

wherein each of the at least some of the first plurality of messages includes personal, non-public content that is related to the first user and that is not provided by the originating business entity to other accounts of the information distribution service;

wherein the first plurality of messages further include a user message, wherein the user message includes information corresponding to a second account of said information distribution service that is associated with a second user of the information distribution service, wherein the second account and the first account are members of a first group, wherein the information distribution service allows a member of the first group to send information to one or more members of the first group ~~stores information indicating that the second account is permitted to share information with the first account~~, and wherein said first account is independent from said second account;

wherein each of the at least some of the first plurality of messages has an associated time value indicative of a time-based priority of the message, and wherein each of the first plurality of messages was selected for delivery to the first computer system based on its associated time value satisfying one or more time-based criteria specified by the information distribution service.

## Reasons for allowance

3. With respect to claims 56, 73 and 84-85, the prior arts of record, singly or in combination fails to teach the features of claim(s) limitations thereof. Specially, inter alia, it fails

to teach a method for providing an information distribution service, said method comprising steps of: receiving, via secure links to said information distribution service, messages including personal information relating to users of said information distribution service, wherein said users include a first user, wherein at least some of said messages are received from a plurality of business entities, wherein the received messages include first, second, and third messages, wherein the first and second messages each include personal, non-public information relating to said first user and an indication of a time-based priority of the message, wherein the first message is received from a first business entity, wherein the second message is received from a second business entity, wherein said first and second business entities have been associated with a first account of the information distribution service via said information distribution service, permitting said first and second business entities to provide, via said information distribution service, messages to said first account that include personal information relating to said first user, wherein the first account is associated with the first user; wherein the received messages further include a third message, wherein the third message includes information corresponding to a second account of the information distribution service, wherein the second account corresponds to a second user of the information distribution service, wherein the second account and the first account are members of a first group, wherein the information distribution service allows a member of the first group to send information to one or more other members of the first group, and wherein said first account is independent from said second user account; generating a report for the first account, wherein said generating includes selecting at least the first, second, and third messages for inclusion in the report based on the time-based priority of those messages satisfying one or more time-based criteria specified by the information distribution service;

making the report available to a client computer system that has accessed the first account via said information distribution service, wherein the report is displayable on the client computer system using a first interface.

Claims 57-72, 74-83, 86-103, 118-129 and 134-137 further limit the allowed claims, therefore they are also allowed.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance"

## Conclusions

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lan-Dai Thi Truong whose telephone number is 571-272-7959. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday from 8:30am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thu Nguyen whose can be reached on 571-272-6967. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ldt.
11/05/2009.

/Kenny S Lin/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452